Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute spread all over the country as well as in collaboration with advanced countries/international research organisations.

Indigenously constant efforts are being made to evolve high yielding varieties of foodgrains and cash crops which are resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses by using biotechnological techniques. Evolved large number of highyielding varieties of foodgrains including wheat, hybrids of rice, maize and sorghum. Evolved high yielding hybrids and varieties of cash crops like cotton, sugracane, tobacco and jute.

In collaboration with advanced foreign countries the following projects are undertaken :

"Overcoming production constraints to sorghum in rainfed environment in India" has been taken up by NR-C Sorghum with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

"Development & use of hybrid rice technology" has been taken up by Dte. of Rice Research with UNDP.

"Improvement of rainfed rice" has been taken up by CRRI with International Rice Research Institute, Phlippines.

"Maize & wheat improvement" have been taken up by Dte. of Maize Research and Dte. of Wheat Research respectively with International Centre for Wheat & Maize Improvement (CMMYT).

"Pasture land Improvement" has been taken up by IGFRI, Jhansi with United Kingdom.

(c) The question does not arise.

Prawn Farming

2128. SHRI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention to the Government has been drawn to news item captioned "Stress on eco-Friendly Aqua Culture Practices". appearing in the *News Time* dated June 6, 1997 ; and

(b) if so, the present position of prawn farming in view of the Supreme Court orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11.12.1996 has ordered that no shrimp ponds can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) as defined in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and that the shrimp culture ponds already set up in the Coastal Regulation Zone shall be demolished and removed before 31.3.1997. However, the Supreme Court's direction do not apply to the traditional and improved traditional types of technologies practised by the farming community in the coastal low lying areas. The Supreme Court also ordered that the Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, seashore, water front and other coastal areas, and specially to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industries in the coastal States/UTs. The Supreme Court has further directed that shrimp culture ponds outside Coastal Regulation Zone area may be set up with the prior approval of such an Authority.

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a review of their judgement. The Matter is *sub-judice.*

Rajya Sabha has passed the Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997 on the 20th March, 1997. The Bill seeks to, *inter alia*, regulate the activities connected with aquaculture in the coastal areas. When the Bill was to be taken up in the Lok Sabha, the fact that the Supreme Court has stayed operation of its judgement became known and, therefore, the bill was not moved in the Lok Sabha. Subsequently, the Court has extended the stay on the operation of its judgement till the 20th August, 1997.

Cattle Breeding Schemes in Rajasthan

2129. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether main livelihood of the drought prone Western Rajasthan people is cattle breeding;

(b) if so, the steps the Government are taking to safeguard the interests of farmers of these districts especially Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner; and

(c) the details of the scheme formulated to enhance and promote cattle breeding in these desert and underdeveloped districts of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken consist of establishment of cattle breeding farms for supply of high quality of germ plasm and extension activities for supply of breeding inputs to the farmers.

(c) Government of Rajasthan is implementing the following schemes in the district of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner :

(i) Key village scheme (ii) ICDP (iii) Gopal Yojana and (iv) cattle breeding farms for Rathi and Tharparkar breeds. Besides these there are veterinary hospitals and dispensaries to provide health coverage and guidance to the farmers.

Government of Rajasthan is also implementing a World Bank assisted project on agriculture development (ADP) under which an amount of Rs. 631.95 lakh was released from 1992-93 to 1994-95.

A Central Cattle Breeding Farm is also functioning at Suratgarh which maintains Tharparkar breed or cattle which is most suitable to the desert districts.

Food Processing Industries

2130. SHRI VIJAY PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govenment propose to encourage the food processing industries dealing with perishable items and export the same ;

(a) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) to (c) Most of the raw materials used by food processing industries are perishable in nature. Various steps taken by the Government for development of food processing industries deal with processing and preservation of such raw materials, resulting in enhancement of level of domestic consumption as well as export.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also Operating various plan Schemes for promoting food processing industries.

Pollution by Oil and Grease

2131. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that there has been accumulation of tar ball (oil) on the beaches form Thannirbhavi to Padubidri in Dakshina Kannada District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for mixing of oil and grease materials in water;

(c) whether oil and grease material in water would lead to the depletion of oxygen resulting in the death of aquatic life; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Accumulation of Tar ball on the beaches from Tannirbhavi to Padubidri in Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka has been reported. Tar balls are formed due to churning action of wind, water and current during monsoons and washed into the shore. They mainly result from routine tank washing and deballasting. The occurrence of tar balls on the beaches along the west coast of India is a seasonal phenomena. They occur with the onset of monsoons.

(c) and (d) The tar balls do not deplete dissolved oxygen in sea water. There is no significant impact on marine life.

Ecologically Critical Areas

2132. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas identified as ecologically oritical by National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board during the last three years in the country;

(b) whether any study has been made on its impact; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken exclusively for eco-recognisation in those areas ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) Guidelines for the afforestation schemes of the National Afforestation & Eco-Development Board (NAEB) indicate the nature of the areas which should be addressed on priority by projects under these schemes. A major emphasis in the schemes is on afforestation of ecologically fragile areas such as Western Himalayas; Aravallies, Western Ghats ; etc. Individual project proposals are prepared by the respective State Governments on the basis of their estimation of the local situation. The NAEB does not itself identify specific sites as ecologically critical.

Welfare Schemes for Delhi

2133. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes being implemented by the Ministry in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; and

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The details of the schemes of the Ministry of Welfare under implementation in various States/UTs, including the National Capital Territory of Delhi alongwith the funds allocated for each scheme for the year 1997-98 are given in the attached Statement. No allocation of funds is made separately for individual State/ U.T. The schemes for Tribal Welfare have not been included, as the National Capital Territory of Delhi is not a Tribal State.